

## **Using Coastal Monitoring Programs to facilitate Environmental Education and Civic Involvement**

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Keywords: Elwha Restoration, Water Quality Monitoring, Citizen Involvement, Environmental Education

This presentation will describe two of the Surfrider Foundation's programs in Washington State. The first, the Blue Water Task Force Program, is a coastal water quality monitoring program. The program is structured to achieve two goals: collect data on fecal pollution in our coastal waters and provide a venue whereby our volunteers can learn about coastal water quality and engage themselves in policy actions to improve coastal water quality. The second program is our new Elwha Shoreline Photographic Monitoring Project (still in development). This project will engage local citizens in collecting images of the Elwha Shoreline to create a record of change - before, during and after the removal of two dams on the Elwha River. As with the Blue Water Task Force, a major goal of the program is to engage local citizens in this major restoration project, and provide them with tools and knowledge that they can pass on to their neighbors and friends. Our hope is that, through this increased understanding of the project at the community level, we maintain a high level of support for this project.